Availability of foodgrains

1796. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita availability of foodgrains is declining in the country;

(b) if so, the per capita availability of wheat, rice, pulses, sugarcane, cotton during the last two years and the current year;

(c) whether the country has become dependent/ is likely to become dependent on import in order to meet its domestic requirement of the said products; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The per capita availability of foodgrains has been fluctuating during the last three years as may be seen from the table given below:

(Kg. per year)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Pulses	Total Foodgrains
2003	66.2	65.8	10.6	159.7
2004	71.3	59.2	13.1	168.9
2005 (P)	64.7	56.3	11.5	154.2

(P)-Provisional

For sugarcane and cotton the data on per capita availability are not compiled.

(c) and (d) The country is not generally dependent on imports for rice and wheat. However, India is a net importer of pulses in view of the need to bridge the domestic demand supply gap.

In order to increase production and productivity the Government has taken several initiatives like Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), enhancing institutional credit flow

to the farmers, ensuring timely availability of quality inputs, accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture, optimizing me efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dryland/rain fed farming systems reforming agricultural markets, putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers, etc.

Compensation under NAIS for loss due to natural calamity

† 1797. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for compensation under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme for the losses caused due to natural disasters,

(b) whether losses caused due to frost is included in it, and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is a Yield Guarantee Scheme. It provides coverage against yield losses caused due to non-preventable natural calamities which *inter alia* include natural fire and lightening, storm, hailstorm, cyclone, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado, flood, inundation, landslide, drought, dry spells, pests, diseases and frost.

(c) Does not arise.

Assistance to fishermen of Goa

1798. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for assisting fishermen who have lost vessels on account of natural calamities including rough weather at the sea;

(b) if so, the essential features of the scheme including pattern of assistance;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.